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**Testimony of  
Sharon M. Palmer, Commissioner  
Department of Labor  
Labor and Public Employees Committee  
February 26, 2015**

Good Day Senator Winfield, Representative Tercyak, Senator Hwang and Representative Rutigliano and members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide you with written testimony regarding ***House Bill 6706 AAC the Filing Fee at the State Board of Mediation and Arbitration***. My name is Heidi Lane and I am here to testify on behalf of Sharon Palmer, the Labor Commissioner.

The Department believes that the concept of raising filing fees is worthy of consideration. In 1997, a Program Review and Investigations study reported that since at least 1979, the \$25 filing fee has remained unchanged. The study made the recommendation at that time to raise the filing fee. However, the filing fee has remained unchanged for at least 33 years.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.